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FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE AMERICA INVENTS ACT

On September 16, 2011, President Barack Obama signed the Smith-Leahy America Invents Act into law at Thomas Jefferson High School in Arlington, Virginia. The America Invents Act is the broadest, most sweeping reform to the patent system since at least the Patent Act of 1952.



AIA results:

USPTO Regional Offices

The USPTO opened offices in Detroit, Denver, Dallas, and the Silicon Valley, fulfilling the AIA requirement to establish a nationwide presence. The regional offices provide stakeholders with easier access to USPTO personnel, programs, and services such as search facilities and hearing rooms. They also enable the agency to engage with customers more directly in the innovative ecosystems where they live and work.



AIA results:

Patent Pro Bono Program

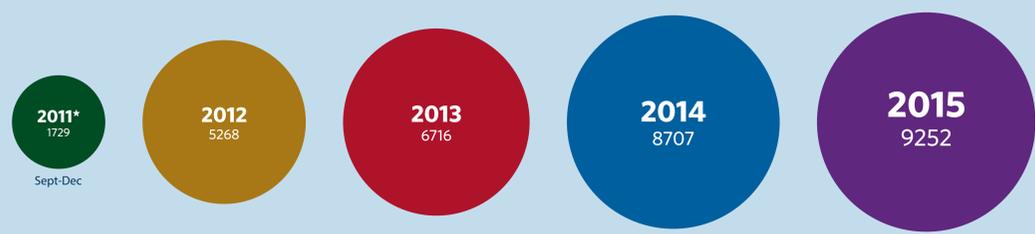
The USPTO collaborated with bar organizations and law schools across the country to provide pro bono patent assistance for under-resourced independent inventors and small businesses in all 50 states, consistent with the America Invents Act's requirement for nationwide pro bono coverage.



AIA results:

Track One Filings

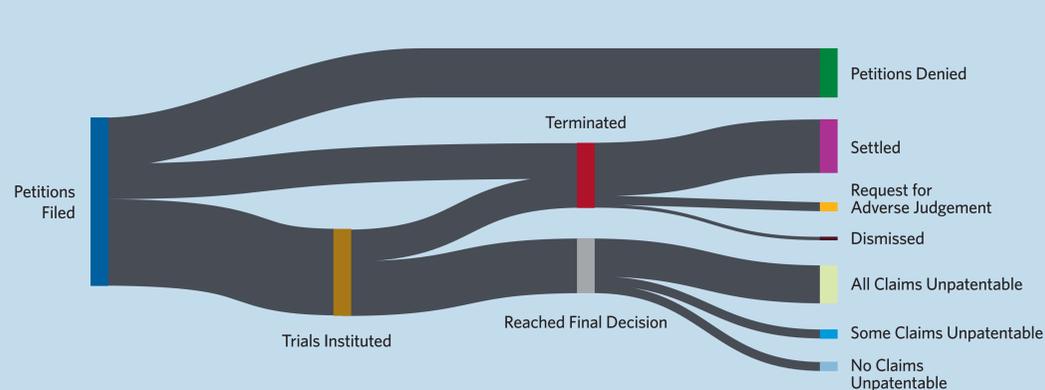
The AIA introduced a provision under which an applicant can secure an expedited review of a patent application for a modest fee. The USPTO completes these Track One examinations in less than a year, and the number of applicants choosing Track One has nearly doubled in the past five years.



AIA results:

Trial Proceedings at PTAB

The America Invents Act established the Patent Trial and Appeal Board and new post-grant proceedings to challenge patent validity. The Board has received more than 5,000 petitions over the last four years, three times more than anticipated. It has also met every statutory deadline for reaching a decision in these cases, either on institution or final resolution.



AIA results:

AIA Implementation

In response to a number of AIA provisions, the USPTO solicited public comments, held public education sessions, issued studies on various aspects of the patent system, and promulgated new procedural rules through Federal Register notices.

